

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-23 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 7, 9, 14, 15, and 20 having been amended and Claim 8 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0073327) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,920).

Claims 7, 8, 14, and 20 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

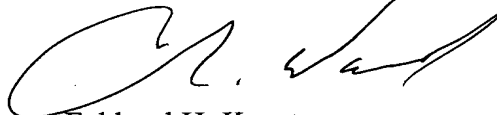
The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication and to expedite patent issuance from the present application, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 8, Claims 7, 14, and 20 have been amended to be in independent form, and Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to include the features of Claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled and minor grammatical changes have also been made. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, each independent claim has been amended to include the features of a dependent claim indicated as including allowable subject matter, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance, as are the dependent claims dependent therefrom.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, no further issues are outstanding and the present application is in condition for formal allowance. Early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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